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Meet Your Police Department

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Board of Police Commissioners Business Meeting

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The Mission of the Kansas City Missouri Police Department, in partnership with the community, is to protect life and property while reducing fear and disorder.

Vision

The KCPD is a premier police agency with a national reputation for excellence that provides innovative and equitable police service to its community through a highly motivated and engaged workforce.

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INFORMANT

The Kansas City Missouri Police Department

October 2010

KCPD to replace Crown Victoria

Ford plans to discontinue Crown Victoria, and KCPD must find new patrol vehicle

The most well-known vehicle of the Kansas City Missouri Police Department will soon have to change.

Ford announced last year that it would discontinue the Ford Crown Victoria in late 2011. Now the KCPD, along with many departments nation-wide, are on the search for the next primary patrol vehicle.

"Every department is in the same boat, and each one has a different opinion about which car will be the right choice for them," said Captain David Bosworth, commander of the Fleet Operations Unit.

A KCPD committee composed of patrol sergeants, fleet personnel and commanders has begun researching possible vehicles to replace the Crown Victoria.

Ford has announced two possible replacements: a "Police Interceptor" SUV and a sedan based on the Ford Taurus. Other options include police versions of the Chevrolet Caprice, the Chevrolet Tahoe, the Chevrolet Impala, and the Dodge Charger.

"What we're looking for is safety, dependability, functionality and space for all the equipment that must be installed and carried in the car," said Major Roger Lewis, commander of the Parol Bureau.

The department also needs a vehicle that is easy to maintain because the KCPD's Fleet Operations Unit provides maintenance and repair work for department vehicles.

They need a vehicle that can be repaired quickly and back on the streets.

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Vehicles the KCPD is considering include (top to bottom) the Ford Interceptor, Chevrolet Caprice, and Dodge Charger.

Brazilians research domestic violence

Brazilians visited the KCPD Domestic Violence Section to learn about effective ways to address the issue

Domestic violence doesn't discriminate. It occurs in every country in the world, crossing all socio-economic classes, races, and targets both sexes, young and old alike. Brazil is no exception.

University Professor Regina Celia Almeida Silva Barbosa and TV News Presenter Merisneide Lanunce Lopes Da Silva, are two Brazilian women who take domestic violence very seriously.

They and their interpreter met with Captain Mark Folsom, Sergeant Lionel Colon, and Detective



Detective Ben Caldwell, Sergeant Lionel Colon, and Captain Mark Folsom met with the visiting researchers from Brazil.

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Narcotics & Vice takes time for teambuilding

The inaugural Narcotics and Vice Division team building event did not include trust falls.

It did, however, feature one team flex-cuffing another team's van door handles together, one officer lying to another that his mother was in the hospital and a little time-out to rescue victims from an overturned vehicle.

On September 17, all the members of the Narcotics and Vice Division split into 12 teams at the Kansas City Regional Police Academy to take on events like "Oatmeal's Trivia Challenge" (a trivia and target-shooting game named after Sergeant Ward Smith's nickname) and "Family Photos" (in which participants tried to track down retired KCPD officers who are now chiefs at other area law enforcement agencies and take pictures with them). The teams were jumbled up so members wouldn't work with their regular coworkers.

"This gives our people who wouldn't normally have the opportunity to work together the chance to work together," Major Jan Zimmerman said. "They're problem-solving, strategizing and having some fun. ... In the course of their investigations, they have to work as a team and not always in a linear fashion. This helps them do that."

Major Zimmerman said some officers thought the idea of a team-building day was cheesy initially, but she knew she had buy-in when several teams bought matching shirts. Competition proved fierce, with teams doing everything they could to come out on top. The Green Machine team beat the Waffle House Mafia by a narrow 15 points.

One team earned a few extra points by taking time away from the contests, however. They came upon a seven-car, roll-over accident involving a semitrailer on 24 Highway. They immediately went into police mode and helped those involved in the crash, including a 7-year-old boy who'd been banged up in the over-turned car. They ordered ambulances and helped clear traffic.

Jessica Bradley, an analyst in the Drug Enforcement Unit, said she thought the day would involve trust falls and other corny activities. But Illegal Firearms Detective James Manley said everyone had a

good time with the unique contests, and Interdiction Detective Errol Riggins called it "refreshing." Sergeant Eric Greenwell of the Career Criminal Squad acknowledged, however, that the games were "very competitive."



Detective Vern Huth of the Career Criminal Section earned extra points for his team by low-crawling across the football field with a Frisbee for a team-building event.

Officially Speaking ...

Awards

Life Saving Award

Officer Eric DeValkenaere

Special Unit Citation

Crossfit Development Team

Metro Patrol Division 210

Sector

Metro Property Crimes Task Force

Tactical Response Team II

Tactical Response Team III

Meritorious Service Award

Captain Floyd Mitchell

Sergeant Paul Hamilton

Officer Jack Colwell

Officer Angeleic Huth

Officer Jim Keller

Retired Officer Daniel Schmer

Certificate of Commendation

Sergeant Matthew Bandler

Sergeant Gregory Chandler

Sergeant Patrick Foster

Sergeant David Jackson

Sergeant Eric Stucker

Detective Kurtis Anderson

Officer Charles Barbosa

Officer Aaron Fisher

Officer Michael Helvie

Officer William Hooley

Officer Martin Lyons

Officer Michael Schmer

Officer Todd Templeton

Officer Paul Williams

Dispatcher Jane Hill

Dispatcher Carrie McCardie

Purple Heart

Detective Lawrence Weimhold

Distinguished Service Medal

Officer Oley Denmark III

Officer Timothy Hiner

Officer Ricky Ropka

Retirements

Detective Craig Hubbell

Obituaries

Retired Detective Emmit R. Kenney

Retired Software Analyst Robert K.

Bail

News in Brief

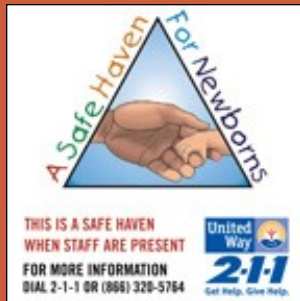
Board conducts off-site, night meeting



To make the Board of Police Commissioners more accessible to the public, the Board moved its Sept. 28 meeting from 9 a.m. in Police Headquarters to 6 p.m. at the Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center at 3700 Blue Parkway. Commissioner Alvin Brooks, who originally proposed moving the meeting there, said he'd been following the Board since the 1950s, and this was the first time he knew of that the board came into the community to hear complaints and concerns.

Police join Safe Havens movement

On Sept. 16, Kansas City Police joined other area law enforcement, fire departments, health departments, hospitals and social service agencies in an initiative to protect newborn babies. The Safe Havens for Newborns campaign put Safe Havens signs at all patrol divisions and Headquarters. The signs indicate that mothers of newborns can legally abandon their babies by handing them over to police at those locations. The Safe Havens law, passed in Missouri in 2006, is intended to protect unwanted infants from abandonment, abuse and death.



569 lbs. of drugs collected at Take-Back

KCPD partnered with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and City of Kansas City on Sept. 25 for a prescription drug take-back event at five locations throughout the city. The public was invited to anonymously drop off unused prescriptions to prevent possible abuse and pollution. Citizens brought in a total of 569 pounds of drugs.

CROWN VICTORIA, CONT. FROM P. 1

KCPD Crown Victorias by the Numbers

- **1987:** KCPD's first Crown Victoria
- **1992:** Crown Victoria became primary patrol car
- **516:** Number of Crown Victorias in use (out of 735 total cars in use)
- **\$43,641:** Cost of new patrol car after \$21,481 in added equipment
- **33:** Hours of labor to convert a Crown Victoria to KCPD patrol car
- **2005:** Average model year
- **87,679:** Average mileage
- **179,477:** Highest mileage
- **1998:** Oldest Crown Victoria
- **5-8:** Average lifespan

"We need to keep 95 percent of the fleet available and on the street at all times," Captain Bosworth said.

They hope to find a replacement similar to the Crown Victoria, meaning it has rear-wheel drive and a full-frame construction that will take less time to repair than vehicles with front-wheel drive or a unibody construction.

Captain Bosworth said so far there isn't a perfect option.

A decision won't be made until the car manufacturers release pricing information and allow departments to drive test vehicles.

BRAZIL, CONT. FROM P. 1

Ben Caldwell of the Domestic Violence Unit during their recent trip to Kansas City in an effort to glean helpful information to take back to their country to assist victims of domestic violence.

The department members explained the KCPD's use of the Lethality Assessment Program. Officers responding to domestic violence incidents ask victims 12 questions based on research. If the victim answers yes to some of the questions, the victim is deemed at risk for death at the hands of the abuser, and the officer immediately puts her or him in touch with a domestic violence advocate by cell phone. The Brazilians said that was an idea they were eager to take back to police in their country.

The women traveled to the U.S. with the International Leadership Program and remained in the country Aug. 28-Sept. 18. They visited six cities, including Kansas City.

The program's objectives included learning about legislation at all levels, gaining an understanding of victim protection, and social service responses to domestic violence.

In 2006, Brazil implemented a

new federal law, The Lei Maria da Penha law, as a response to social uproar over a Brazilian woman, Maria da Penha, whose husband twice tried to murder her, leaving her a paraplegic.

Today, Ms. Penha speaks to women's groups in her country about domestic violence, giving abused women a voice and the support they need to file police reports. Professor Barbosa said this is important because many police departments in Brazil are corrupt.

Many police officers are themselves batterers and are desensitized to the trauma domestic violence victims experience. So, victims are afraid to come forward.

In response, the police department in the Brazilian state where the women reside created five domestic violence departments, staffed only by female officers.

These departments give victims a place to go where they won't risk the intimidation and fear of dealing with corrupt male officers.

Since their implementation, Professor Barbosa says that domestic violence reports have increased because women finally can safely report their abusers.



Off the Clock:

Civilian John Losh's alter-ego is football team's biggest fan

To call John Losh a fan of the Kansas City Chiefs would be insulting.

That's because he's a *Superfan*. Losh, an administrative assistant in the Records Unit, is one of about 20 people known as the KC Superfans who dress up in outlandish costumes and cheer on their favorite football team. But they do a lot more than that. Losh said a majority of the time he spends with the Superfans is doing charity work.

"We support First Downs for Down Syndrome, the March of Dimes March for Babies, Abby's Walk for the Heart and the Walk for Neurofibromatosis," he said. "And on Red Friday, we sell magazines for the Chiefs' charities."

Losh said the Superfans started about five years ago when some devoted fans – you may have seen them with face paint and costumes in the end-zones of Chiefs' games – realized they got mobbed by other fans whenever they left their seats. Children wanted their autographs and adults wanted to take pictures of them. The original group of five men decided they wanted to do something positive with their pseudo-celebrity status and formed the KC Superfans. The group is dedicated to supporting the Chiefs and to supporting charities. Two of the members have even made it into the NFL Hall of Fame's fan section.

Losh got involved in 2006 when he was hosting a sports radio show



John Losh of the Records Unit is a KC Superfan. His alter-ego is Fire CHIEF, and his daughter Cara occasionally assists as Deputy Fire CHIEF.

on KCXL 1140 AM and had Superfans Touchdown Elvis and Weird Wolf on as guests. He said it was the most fun show he'd ever done, so Losh got involved. He was working at KCPD as a calltaker at the time and wanted his Superfan character to be public-safety related. He knew a lot of firefighters and went to their training academy to ask if they had any old helmets they couldn't use. They gave him a defective one, but it worked well for his purposes. Losh debuted his alter-ego – Fire CHIEF – at the First Downs for Down Syndrome event in October 2006. Losh's 14-year-old daughter Cara occasionally assists him as Deputy Fire CHIEF.

In addition to charity work, the Superfans host watch parties for away games and bring in Chiefs' players for autograph sessions at sporting goods stores. Several Superfans go to training camp with the Chiefs and chronicle their time there.

Losh said the Superfans focus only on the positive side of things.

"We want people to finally realize it's time to believe in this team," he said. "I'm tired of all this negative talk. ... I firmly believe it's a privilege to have professional sports in Kansas City. If we don't get behind them, even in our mental attitude, we're going to lose them. It's

the best three hours of the week."

You can learn more about the Superfans at www.kcsuperfans.com.

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